

OIL and GAS NEWS

Wildcat Jim.

The following item was handed to The Ardmoreite for publication:

"There is considerable rumor in circulation regarding the Wildcat Jim Oil company. Many prominent oil operators have visited this well. Those who seem to know are whispering that a greater field than Healdton and a much superior oil will soon be found there. It would be well to watch the movements of these people, as they are surrounded with much secrecy, and what they may have is only conjecture."

Healdton Oil 30c.

A letter under date of February 1 addressed to Col. Greer, attorney for the Magnolia Pipe Line company, and signed by each member of the corporation commission of Oklahoma, contains this sentence:

"The former orders of the commission in reference to production of oil, providing in substance that oil should not be taken from the oil sands when the same could not be sold at 50c per barrel, is hereby set aside."

The commission has made a hard fight. Every producer in the Healdton field appreciates the work of these men, but in the face of conditions as they exist now, it seems impossible to hold the price at 50c and effect the sale of any oil and the revoking of the 50c order means that the Healdton oil will sell for 30c.

A Deep Test.

Carter county is to have another wildcat test drilled. It is reported that the location was made yesterday near the center of the southeast quarter of section 11-5-3. The Samoset and Dundee companies together will drill the well, and it is to be a deep test. Geological conditions are said to be favorable. J. I. Dunn, who was one of the early oil men in the Healdton field, like that portion of the county, and the closest well to the new location was drilled by Mr. Dunn and by Gumburg & Forman in section 24-4-3. That well was a failure. Two other wells have been drilled in the same township, one in section 22 and the other in section 25, but neither of them were deep tests. It is also stated that the company has 2,500 acres in that section of the country surrounding the proposed well. Drilling operations are to be begun at once.

Others Pass Judgment.

John F. Easley, editor of The Ardmoreite, published at Ardmore, Okla., has been painstaking and conscientious in his efforts to report developments and conditions in the Healdton oil field. His news of the district from the very first has been regarded as reliable.

It was not up to him to jump in and fight the pipe line company, although a number of the producers at Healdton seem to think that it was. They forget that the real business of any newspaper is to report the news as accurately as it can. Apparently some of them would rather see attacks on the pipe-line people in the paper than they would authentic information as to the situation in the field.

In the oil business, as in every other

business, the man who sells desires to get all that he can for his product, while the man who buys endeavors to buy at the best price possible from his standpoint. This is human nature; it is as old as the hills. If the producers owned Mr. Easley's paper it would be right and proper that he should work in their interest at all times and against the pipe line people. If the pipe line owned his paper it would be his job to reverse the policy.

We regard Mr. Easley's oil department in The Ardmoreite as daily proof of his ability to grasp a subject that almost invariably proves difficult to an editor without previous experience in handling oil news. His reports have been full, fair and comprehensive. If he has given actual facts as to market conditions it is to his credit. It shows that he knows that his paper will be judged by the news it prints, and that its standing and reputation must be built absolutely upon truthful reporting.

Mistakes have been made by both the producers and the pipe line at Healdton, and it is not Mr. Easley's task to rub it in on either. Any hard-working editor, and Mr. Easley is of this type, gets most of his pay in the satisfaction of knowing that he has tried to do his best. He certainly doesn't receive an income from his labors commensurate with the energy and effort he expends. To the man at a distance, the reports of the Healdton field published in The Ardmoreite are worth a great many times the amount he pays for the paper.

These remarks are prompted by the reading of three letters published in The Ardmoreite of January 25, one from a Chicago man interested in production at Healdton, attacking the policy of the paper; one from Wirt Franklin, also a Healdton producer, endorsing the Chicago communication; and one, in reply to both, by Mr. Easley. The Chicago man objected to the publication of an anonymous letter in The Ardmoreite, advocating the sale of oil at 30c.—Editorial in the Fuel Oil Journal, Houston, Texas.

Want ads are time-savers. Read them.

ORDINANCE NO. 171.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VACATION OF PART OF K STREET SOUTHWEST.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF ARDMORE:

SECTION 1.

There is hereby vacated a strip of land fifteen feet (15 ft.) wide on the east side of K street, southwest, beginning at McElsh Avenue, and extending to the present southern boundary of the city limits.

Also there is hereby vacated a strip of land fifteen feet (15 ft.) wide on the west side of K street, southwest, beginning at McElsh Avenue and extending to the present southern boundary of the city limits.

SECTION 2.

By reason of a necessity for the immediate preservation of the public peace and safety an emergency is hereby declared, by reason of which this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

Passed and approved this 2nd day of February, 1915.

W. R. ROBERTS,

Attest: Mayor.

G. H. BRUCE, City Clerk.

(Seal)

First published February 3, 1915.

NOTICE IN BANKRUPTCY

In the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Oklahoma. In the matter of James S. White, Bankrupt. In Bankruptcy.

To the creditors of James S. White, of New Wilson, in the Eastern District of the State of Oklahoma, a Bankrupt. Notice is hereby given that on the 1st day of February, 1915, the said James S. White was adjudged bankrupt, and that the first meeting of his creditors will be held at the office of W. T. Ward, referee, in the city of Ardmore, Oklahoma, on the 13th day of February, 1915, at 10 o'clock a. m., at which time the creditors may attend, prove their claims, appoint a trustee, examine the bankrupt and transact such other business as may come before said meeting.

Dated this 2nd day of February, 1915.

W. T. WARD,

Referee in Bankruptcy, Ardmore, Okla.

Published February 3, 1915.

GOVERNMENT APPRAISERS ARE HERE

GOVERNMENT AND TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES HERE YESTERDAY LOOKING OVER THE WESTERN UNION PROPERTY.

R. L. Gillis of Kansas City, W. E. Noien of Dallas, and Pete Doyle of El Reno, were in the city yesterday making an appraisal of all telegraph and telephone property for the government, which at the present time is making such appraisements over the United States with a view of taking over railroads, telegraph and telephone lines after similar plans that are in force in Europe, especially in England. The bill for the appropriation to pay for making the appraisal was passed by congress, but it will take some time to finish this part of the work alone. Then a bill must be prepared and submitted to congress to authorize the purchase of all this property by the government and put under government control. The question of government of all public service corporations has been agitated in the United States for a number of years, but this is the first time the government has begun actual steps to that end. There are many champions for and against public ownership and this question is liable to develop into a strenuous battle before being finally settled.

The El Reno well in 12-4-4 is being plugged at a depth of 1,200 feet. This well was owned by parties in El Reno, Okla., and the drilling was done by L. C. Hivick.

T. J. Galloway was a visitor here today from Oklahoma City.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Dorsett and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Price of Midlothian, Texas, are visitors to Ardmore.

Scivally Petroleum Company is building a rig in section 15-4-3. In this same section C. F. Colcord and Jake L. Hamon are preparing to drill a well. Light wells are being found in this portion of the field, but they will pay well on the investment.

Many rumors are going the rounds concerning the building of another line into the field but we have been unable to get a statement of facts concerning the plans. It is rumored that the Magnolia Pipe Line Company will build another line from Addington into the field and from Addington to Fort Worth another line will be built. We have made efforts to obtain the facts, but have not been able to do so yet. The pump station at Waurika has been dismantled and will be shipped to some other point. That does not mean the weakening of the line to Fort Worth because a larger station will be built at Addington, nearby. When the McMan line is built from Cushing to Addington and connected with the eight-inch line, there will be no outlet for Healdton oil if that line is used exclusively by the McMan people. The McMan people have enough oil to keep it full and some more just like it. It is not reasonable to presume that the Healdton field will be cut off, and it seems inevitable that another line will be built from Addington to Fort Worth.

First 3-reel Comedy ever shown at this house, "After Her Millions. Theatre, Thursday."

Postmasters Nominated. Washington, Feb. 2.—Oklahoma postmasters nominated: Walter J. Stevens, Lexington; James G. Lyons, Okmulgee.

Canadian White Fish. Canadian white fish from the clear running streams of the north, at Claude Stubblefield's, Thursday. Order over the phone.

Federal Grand Jury Called. Guthrie, Okla., Feb. 2.—United States district Judge Cotterall today issued an order for the impaneling of a special federal grand jury on Feb. 18, to investigate a number of special matters and to take up the cases of forty prisoners now in the federal jail here, all of whom have been arrested since the adjournment of the special grand jury late in the fall.

Lyceum News. The Cathedral Choir, consisting of four female and four male voices, will appear at the High school Feb. 4, at 8:30 p. m. Reserved seats at Ringler's Drug Store.

PROTECTION AGAINST PINK BOLL WORM

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BELIEVES RESTRICTIVE MEASURES PROPOSED WILL HAVE TO BE ENFORCED.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 1.—The results of a government investigation into the measures required to prevent the introduction of the pink boll worm into the cotton states, indicate that it will be necessary to adopt the restrictions which were proposed and discussed at a public hearing held at the department of agriculture in Washington on May 15, 1914. In brief, the measures then proposed were: (1) An order placing similar restrictions on the importation of lint cotton to those which now apply to nursery stock, so that the entry of such cotton may be limited to the northern states. (2) A quarantine order regulating the movement of imported lint cotton from the northern to the cotton-growing states. (3) A quarantine order restricting the movement of Hawaiian cotton to certain northern states.

After the hearing, action on these proposed measures was postponed until fuller information could be obtained in regard to the utilization of foreign lint cotton in southern mills. It was also desired to test the efficiency in practice, of burning each day the picker waste from this cotton and to make tests of certain means of disinfecting baled cotton which have been suggested. From the reports received by the department of agriculture from its agent, however, it now appears that neither disinfection nor burning can be relied upon to prevent the introduction of the pest.

In the burning of the picker waste, considerable laxity was found. In many cases the enforcement of this requirement was entrusted to subordinates who were either indifferent to, or ignorant of the danger from negligence. In the opinion of the department, therefore, it is thoroughly unsafe to rely upon the mill owners to have such material destroyed. Even if this were not the case, however, there would still be the danger that the pink boll worm might escape from seeds adhering to or near the surface of the bales which are often kept in storage for a long time. There is an even greater danger in cotton which has been opened and put through the bale breaker and then left to condition for several days before being cleaned.

Disinfection of the bales of lint was found to be equally unsatisfactory. Fumigation in fact had to be abandoned on account of the expense involved and the possibility of injuring the fiber. It was found, moreover, that inadequate disinfection of the center of the very dense Egyptian bales was a practical impossibility. The destruction of the insect by heat is not believed to be advisable on account of the increased danger of fire in storage warehouses.

It seems, therefore, that if the pink boll worm is to be excluded from the United States, the measures proposed at the public hearing of May 15 must now be adopted. These measures will place no serious handicap on the importation and utilization of foreign cottons in manufacturing districts north of the cotton-growing states. The admission of foreign and Hawaiian cotton under permit will proceed as at present, but will be limited to special ports of entry. These will include New York, Boston, and San Francisco, which receive practically all of the cotton that now reaches the United States.

The purpose of the second measure now proposed is to regulate the movement of the imported cotton into the cotton-growing states after it has been admitted into this country. Before this cotton can be sent to southern mills, it will be required to be stored in northern warehouses for 24 months, a period which will make it absolutely certain that any insects which may have been contained in the seeds have all perished. This means, for example, that the Egyptian crop of 1914 would not be available for southern mills until October, 1916.

The necessity for this long period of storage arises from the fact that experiments have shown that not all of the larvae of the pink boll worm transform during the first summer following harvest, and a certain percentage may continue as larvae into the second summer. The department, moreover, is informed that foreign cotton is frequently kept in storage in this country for a considerable time, and it is

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therefore, probable that the few southern mills which are dependent on foreign cotton can secure supplies to meet this new condition until they are able to make permanent arrangements for the future. Furthermore, it was brought out at the May hearing that a sufficient quantity of long staple and Egyptian cotton is now produced in Arizona and elsewhere in the south to meet any imperative and immediate need.

For these reasons the department believes that the proposed restrictions will not work serious hardships to southern manufacturers. In any event, however, they will be far less damaging than the entry of an insect which would probably prove fully as disastrous as the boll weevil. In Egypt, where the pink boll worm was introduced about five years ago, it has been known in some cases to reduce the yield 50 per cent. In addition to this the amount of oil obtained from the seed is lessened from 15 to 20 per cent. The pink boll worm hibernates in the cotton seeds in the larvae state. For this reason importations of cotton seed have been prohibited since May 28, 1913. Shortly after the establishment of this quarantine, several parcels of cotton seed from Egypt were intercepted by customs officers and found to be heavily infested with living larvae of the pink boll worm. It is not sufficient, however, to prohibit importations of cotton seed, because faulty ginning frequently leaves cotton seeds in bales of lint. Investigations have shown that Egyptian bales contained an average of 600 seeds each, and living larvae have been found in some of these seeds. In the cleaning process preliminary to spinning, these seeds are removed with other waste and are frequently used as fertilizer and for other purposes. It is common practice in the south for the trash from the mills, which may include seed, to be discharged upon ground within a stone's throw of cotton fields. Under the prevailing conditions it seems probable that to the small amount of Egyptian cotton used in the southern mills is chiefly due the fact that the pink boll worm is not yet established in the United States. Immunity that rests on such a flimsy foundation can hardly be expected to continue long.

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